

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 DODE-00 SS-15

FEA-01 PM-04 SP-02 PRS-01 /097 W

----- 127922

R 251232Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 395

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EG

SUBJECT: QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT - NUCLEAR ASPECTS

REF STATE 43316

1. I TALKED WITH MINELECTRICITY SULTAN TODAY ABOUT OUR DESIRE NOMINATE TWO-MAN TEAM TO PERMIT REALISTIC EVALUATION OF PNES AND OTHER METHODS ACCOMPLISH QATTARA PROJECT. I ASKED IF SUCH TWO-MAN TEAM NOMINATION ACCEPTABLE AND FOR HIS ASSURANCE THAT BOTH WILL BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN WORK OF BOARD OF ADVISERS.

2. SULTAN IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. WITHOUT QUESTIONING WHAT THE RESPECTIVE EXPERTISE OF EACH OF THE TWO TEAM MEMBERS WOULD BE, HE SAID WE COULD BE ASSURED THAT BOTH WILL BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED. HE EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT OUR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE AND ASKED FOR NAMES. I TOLD HIM I WOULD PROVIDE ASAP NAMES ALONG WITH BACKGROUND DATA ON EXPERTS SELECTED.

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3. COMMENT: I AM PLEASED THAT THESE NOMINATIONS ARE
FINALLY GETTING UNDERWAY. WHILE I RECOGNIZE
COMPLEXITY OF SOME OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED, I MUST
SAY THAT WE HAVE NOT LOOKED PARTICULARLY GOOD ON THIS
MATTER. IT HAS BEEN THE KIND OF EXCRUCIATING
SLOWNESS ABOUT WHICH AMERICANS SO OFTEN COMPLAIN IN
EGYPTIAN PROCEDURES AND WAS HARDLY A LESSON TO THE
GOE IN HOW TO HANDLE MATTERS EXPEDITIOUSLY.
STILL, IT IS BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.

4. I AM SLIGHTLY PUZZLED BY ONE POINT IN FYI PORTION
OF PARA 2 REFTEL. WHAT PRECISELY ARE THE QUOTE USG
INTERESTS UNQUOTE IN QATTARA PROJECT THAT WE DESIRE
TO SAFEGUARD? IN PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH INTERESTED
WASHINGTON OFFICIALS, I HAD GAINED IMPRESSION THAT OUR
INTEREST IN THE QATTARA PROJECT WAS AT BEST MARGINAL
AND THAT WE WOULD HAVE MUCH PREFERRED NOT TO BE
INVOLVED. ANY CLARIFICATION WILL BE HELPFUL FOR OUR
OWN GUIDANCE.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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